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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

**Investigations Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2000
Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta**

Meeting Minutes

Present: S. Leach, R. Doughty, C. Pillsbury, P. Knowlton

Staff: D. White; B. Montejo

Guest: Terry Lonchena

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m.

A. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - Dan Ward, Francis Chalmers

B. Accept Minutes of January 5 & March 1, 2000, meetings

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the January 5, 2000 and March 1, 2000, meetings.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the January 5, 2000 and March 1, 2000, meetings (Doughty; Leach - motion carries).

2. INVESTIGATIONS

A. John Sawicki

Staff reported that the investigation has been initiated regarding John Sawicki's status as an Instructor Coordinator and allegations that he had falsified documents used to obtain his Maine Instructor Coordinator certification.

B. Michael Drake

Staff updated the Committee on the investigation of Michael Drake.

C. Christopher Reed

Staff reported that Christopher Reed had requested a fair hearing to appeal the Committee's decision to deny renewal of his EMT-Basic license because of his conduct which led to his arrest and conviction of an offense which took place in August, 1999. Staff then queried the Committee as to whether this matter could be resolved by consent agreement - providing for Mr. Reed's license renewal upon his successful completion of probation and establishing covenants for his continued licensure thereafter.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding Mr. Reed's offenses and steps Mr. Reed had taken towards rehabilitation.

Motion: That Christopher Reed be offered a consent agreement which: provides for renewal of his EMT-Basic license after he successfully completes his probation; issuance of a conditional license for a period of three years which requires Mr. Reed to abstain from the use of alcohol or other drugs and provides for random drug and alcohol testing at the expense of the licensee when requested by Maine EMS or a Maine EMS service with which the licensee is sponsored or affiliated; and, immediate and unconditional surrender when requested by Maine EMS, of Mr. Reed's EMS license should he test positive for a measurable amount of alcohol or other drugs or if he should have a charge filed against him in any State or Federal Court (Doughty; Leach - motion carries).

D. Dresden First Responders

D. White reported on the meeting that he attended with members of the Dresden First Responders (DFR) concerning the pending investigation and distributed a letter from Patricia Therriault, one of the two directors who oversee the operation of the service. The letter outlined the steps that DFR will take to insure that run reports are submitted in a timely manner.

Terry Lonchena, regional coordinator for the Kennebec Valley EMS Council reported the region's and regional medical director's concerns and worked with the Committee in outlining the terms of a consent agreement to resolve this matter.

Motion: To enter into a consent agreement for a period of three years with the Dresden First Responders that: requires DFR to send a service representative to 3 of 4 quarterly Quality Assurance meetings conducted by the Kennebec Valley EMS Council each year; requires DFR follow all Maine EMS Rules; requires DFR to submit the appropriate copies of the Maine EMS run reports to the Maine Health Information Center and to the Kennebec Valley EMS Council by no later than the 10th day of the month following the month reported; requires DFR to hold a service level meeting at least once each calendar quarter; requires DFR to adhere to Kennebec Valley Regional Quality Assurance guidelines; and, provides that DFR will surrender their non-transporting service license upon command of the Investigations Committee if it is determined by the Committee that DFR failed to meet the requirements of the consent agreement (Pillsbury; Doughty - motion carries).

E. Carmel Ambulance Service - Committee Action

D. White reported that Paul Liebow, Region 4 medical director had signed Carmel Ambulance Service's application for license renewal following a meeting between representatives of Carmel Ambulance Service and the Region 4 Executive Committee. Carmel provided information which indicated the positive steps it has taken in rebuilding the service based upon recommendations by EMS consultant, Kevin McGinnis. Given the great strides that the service has made since the initiation of the investigation, staff recommended that the case be dismissed.

Motion: that Carmel Ambulance Service's efforts since the initiation of case 97-03, have resulted in a positive change in the service's operation; and that the service has achieved the support of the regional medical director for renewal of its service license. Therefore the Committee finds that no further action is warranted and that the case be dismissed (Doughty; Pillsbury - motion carries).

In a related matter, D. White indicated that licensee and Carmel Ambulance Service member Vickie Jo Cyr was placed under investigation for quality of care concerns at the same time as the Carmel Ambulance Service was placed under investigation. In that no new complaints have been filed with Maine EMS, and that the Carmel Ambulance service is working on service level Quality Assurance, staff requested the Committee to determine if filing this case was appropriate.

Motion: In that no new quality of care issues have arisen against licensee Vickie Jo Cyr since the initiation of case 97-04 and that the Carmel Ambulance Service is developing a Quality Assurance mechanism to identify all instances of substandard care within the service, the Committee directs that the investigation of Vickie Jo Cyr be filed with the understanding that the case may be reactivated should future quality of care complaints be lodged against Vickie Jo Cyr; and that Vickie Jo Cyr be notified that the Committee expects her to maintain the highest standard of professionalism and patient care as an EMS provider (Leach; Doughty - motion carries).

F. April Ann Keller

Staff reported that a written complaint has been received against licensee April Ann Keller and that an investigation has been initiated.

G. Other - Francis Chalmers

Staff reported that information had been received which alleged that licensee Francis Chalmers had practiced EMS patient care without a license.

Motion: To initiate an investigation of Francis Chalmers for practicing EMS patient care without a license (Leach;Doughty - motion carries).

3. Applications

A. Jeffrey Aucoin

Staff provided the Committee with information regarding licensee Jeffrey Aucoin's criminal convictions.

Motion: To initiate an investigation of licensee Jeffrey Aucoin regarding his history of criminal convictions and his failure to list those convictions on his Maine EMS license application (Doughty; Leach - motion carries).

B. Dan Ward

Staff provided the Committee with information concerning applicant Dan Ward's history of convictions. It was noted that Mr. Ward had changed his name from Dan Foster.

The Committee requested staff further investigate this matter.

C. Walter Gibbons

The Committee reviewed applicant Walter Gibbons history of convictions.

Motion: To enter into a consent agreement with applicant Walter Gibbons which provides for a conditional license for a three year period and which further stipulates that if any charges are filed against Mr. Gibbons, he will immediately surrender his Maine EMS license (Leach; Knowlton - motion carries).

5. NEXT MEETING

A. Set Agenda - To be set prior to meeting

B. Set Date and Time - The next meeting will be on June 7, 2000 following the Maine EMS Board meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drexell White